THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Union Labour Secretary attended the meeting of the Governing Body of the ILO at Geneva (Switzerland) during 17—21 November, 1997.

Non-Payment of Statutory Dues of Workers of CPSUs

1013. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2569 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th August, 1997 and state:

(a) the total outstanding arrears of non-payment of statutory dues of the workers in CPSUs as on 30th September, 1997;

(b) the details of un-paid amount PSU-wise;

(c) the action taken by the sub-Committee formed by the Cabinet to liquidate the dues; and

(d) in case no action has been taken, the reasons for the delay and failure of Government to meet their legal liabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) The matter was taken up by the Group of Ministers on 29.8.1997 to decide the strategy for liquidation of past dues to workers and prevent such defaults in the future. Based on the recommendations of GOM, the Government will take a decision accordingly. As a result of assurances given by varioius Departments to clear outstanding statutory dues of workers, these liabilities have come down over time.

(d) does not arise.

Law for Non-Payment of Provident Fund

1014. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a law to take recourse to action against those companies who default in payment Provident Fund; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is already a law namely the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 which regulates matters relating to Provident Funds. The companies which default in payment of PF dues are liable for legal and penal action as provided under section 7A, 8, 8B, 14, 14B, 14AA, etc. of the EPF & MP Act and where necessary, also under section 406/409 of the Indian Penal Code.

Non-Payment of Wages to Workers by PSUs

1015. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr it is a fact that a large number of Public SEctor Undertakings have defaulted in the payment of wages to its workers; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to clear the outstanding dues at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) According to information collected from various Ministries/Departments having administrative control of Public Sector Undertakings, it is understood that some units have defaulted in payment of wages to workers. The Government prepared a status paper on the subject seeking directions of the Cabinet on the strategy to be adopted for liquidation of these arrears. The Cabinet in turn constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) consisting of